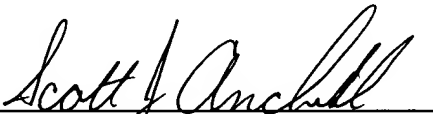


examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes two distinct or independent inventions.” It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in the present application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to the Applicant and duplicative examination by the Patent Office.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the restriction requirement and to examine all claims in this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: March 21, 2001

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